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PATENT  
2091-0205P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: N. NAKAJIMA Conf.: 3582  
Application No.: 09/447,256 Group: 2623  
Filed: November 23, 1999 Examiner: C. LAROSE  
For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED**  
FEB 20 2003  
Technology Center 2600

Sir:

February 14, 2003

In reply to the Office Action mailed August 14, 2002, the period for reply having been extended three (3) months to February 14, 2003, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) An image processing method for obtaining a layout image signal representing a layout image, in which a plurality of person images are laid out, from a plurality of original image signals, each of the original image signals representing a person image, in which a face pattern of a person is embedded, the method comprising the steps of:

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